

tory workers would give the newer results for clearing agents that do not decolorize stains, used after imbedding in (a) celloidin or parlodion, or (b) paraffin.—V. A. LATHAM, Abstractor.]

FONTANA'S SPIROCHETE STAIN

Fontana's method of staining spirochetes involves the use of the following preparations:—1. *Fixing* fluid: acetic acid, 1 c.c.; formalin, 20 c.c.; distilled water, 100 c.c. 2. *Mordant*: tannic acid, 5 gm.; phenol solution (1 per cent), 100 c.c. 3. *Silver solution*: Prepare a 0.25 per cent solution of nitrate of silver, which may be done with sufficient accuracy by dissolving a small crystal in half a test tube of distilled water and adding just enough ammonia solution to cause a slight permanent turbidity. 4. Distilled water.

3. *Process*: Prepare the slide to be stained by spreading the material from the syphilitic lesion very thinly on a clean slide, allowing to dry spontaneously; fix by pouring on the fixing fluid, pouring it off after a few seconds. Renew immediately, and perform this process several times. The total duration of this stage should be *not less* than a minute. Wash well in distilled water, flood with the mordant, apply gentle heat until steam arises, and allow the process to continue for half a minute; wash thoroughly in distilled water (15 to 30 seconds), flood with the silver solution, again warm gently for half a minute, wash, blot and dry. Mount in balsam for permanent specimens. The spirochetes are stained jet black, and appear larger than when stained by ordinary methods. Cedar oil causes the spirochetes to *pale*.
V. A. L.

SIMPLE METHOD OF CLEANING OLD USED SLIDES

Johnson (J. Am. Med. A., Dec. 8, 1917) suggests soaking slides indefinitely (24 hours at least) in full strength commercial (household) ammonia, followed by rinsing with water and wiping clean. Stained smears of all kinds, immersion oil, balsam mounts are equally well cleaned. The same supply may be used repeatedly if kept in tightly closed receptacle.
V. A. L.

MENTHOL FOR NARCOTIZING

Don't forget that menthol is an effective reagent in narcotizing or anæsthetizing lower forms of life such as Rotifers, Infusoria, or even small crustacea.
V. A. L.